- The Ministry has mooted a Multi-Stake Holder Partnership (MSP) framework for forestation.
- States have been advised to constitute State-level coordination committee under chairmanship of Chief Secretaries for eliciting cooperation of all land-owning Departments for contributing towards increase in FTC.
- Under National Afforestation Plan (NAP) Scheme Rs. 1180.72 crores were released to support 729 FDA projects through 24,215 JFMCs for treating a total project area of 9.36 lakh ha.
- A restructured scheme for Grants-in-Aid for Greening India was launched in 2005-06 to promote production and use of quality planting material in tree planning.
- As a follow-up of the Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan, a new scheme for afforestation involving Panchayati Raj Institution for tree planning on non-forest lands is mooted.
- Establishment of two new Eco-Task Force (ETF) battalions for eco-restoration of degraded areas was mooted by the Ministry, in addition to supporting the existing four ETF battalions.
- State Government and Union Territories Administrations have been requested to formulate and implement a comprehensive Media Plan to create awareness about tree planting.

**Illegal killing of endangered animals**

†1274. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lion, leopard and tiger population is fast dwindling in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that over 10 years, their population has reduced to less than half;

(c) the sort of protection being provided to these wild animals; and

(d) the details of cases booked for illegal killing of these animals in the years 2005, 2006 and 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Tiger estimation figures relating to four States (Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra) as per the refined methodology indicate a decline in tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. However, this has not been reported for lion and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

leopard. The population estimation figures of lion, leopard and tiger over the last ten years as received from States are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) The initiatives taken by the Government of India for conservation of wild animals including tiger are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ 1259 Pt.(c)].

(d) Details of individual cases relating to poaching of wild animals are not collated at the Government of India level. However, mortality (natural/poaching/ accident) figures pertaining to tiger and leopard as received from tiger range States, apart from lion, are given in Statement-II.

***Statement-I***

*Population estimation figures of major wild animals*

| Sl. No. | Tiger | | Leopard | | Asiatic Lion | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1997 | 2001-02 | 1997 | 2001-02 | 1995 | 2005 |
| 1. | 3508 | 3642 | 7893 | 8203 | 304 | 359 ± 10 |

***Statement-II***

*Mortality figures pertaining to tiger, leopard and lion*

| Sl. No. | Tiger | | | Leopard | | | Lion | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
| 1. | 17 | 14 | 08 | 04 | 17 | 06 | 35 | 35 | Not reported |

**Killing of lions in Gir forest**

1275. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of lions in Gir forest (Gujarat) as on 30th June, 2007;

(b) the number of lions so killed during the last one year, month-wise;

(c) whether the poachers are working on the pattern of Naxalite activities and the forest department is unable to protect the lions and other wild-life animals; and

(d) if so, whether due to this effect, Gir forest is on the line of Sariska forest where there are no lions/tigers today?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As per the last population estimation carried out during April 2005, the total number of Asiatic lions in Gir and surrounding areas is estimated to be about 359±10.